



GOSPORT & ALVERSTOKE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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**REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,**

**E. J. HUNTER, L.R.C.P.E., ETC.,**

**FOR THE YEAR 1894.**

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
OF THE  
Gosport and Alverstoke District  
FOR 1894.

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GOSPORT,  
MARCH, 1895.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Seventh Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the District of Gosport and Alverstoke for the year ending December 31st, 1894, and in doing so I am pleased to state that the record for the year is extremely satisfactory, the rate of mortality being lower than it has been for some years past, to a considerable extent this is undoubtedly due to the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, every case notified being as quickly as possible enquired into, and with the combined assistance of the Medical attendants, prompt steps were taken to prevent the spreading of very many serious cases, often with the most satisfactory results.

STATISTICS.

The record of the Births and Deaths during the past 12 months is as follows, viz. :—Births registered during the year 775, an increase of 10 on the year previous.

Males	393
Females	382
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	775
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The total number of deaths was 417, a decrease of 123, as compared with 1893, the death rate for the whole district being 16·35 per 1000, as compared with 21·17 per 1000 for 1893.

Among the inhabitants proper, *i.e.*: exclusive of the Naval and Military population, the deaths numbered 327, giving an annual average of 15·21 per 1000, as compared with 20·97 per 1000 for 1893.

The following table of births, deaths and mortality rates during the past seven years, may be of interest, and it will be readily seen how favourably 1894 compares with the previous years.



Year	Births	Deaths		Rate of Mortality per 1000		Estimated Population
		Whole District	District proper	Whole District	District proper	
1888	810	469	385	21·81	21·27	21,500
1889	836	482	406	22·41	22·43	„
1890	796	486	394	22·6	21·76	„
1891	809	454	364	17·87	16·93	25,500
1892	754	549	433	21·52	20·14	„
1893	765	540	451	21·17	20·97	„
1894	775	417	327	16·35	15·21	„

### NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases notified during the year, and the Wards in which they have occurred. There has been a remarkable decrease in the number of notifications, there being 122, as against 244, or exactly one half, whilst the death rate from notifiable diseases has declined also, the deaths numbering 26 as against 37, and the rate being 1·02 per 1000 as against 1·45.

### DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1894.

Ward.	Scarlatina	Enteric Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Mem. Croup	Cont. Fever	Total
Gosport	7	4	4	4	1	...	20
South	12	25	16	5	2	...	60
North	...	10	14	9	1	3	42
Total	19	44	34	18	4	3	122

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES' HOSPITAL.

I am pleased to learn that steps are being taken towards establishing an Infectious Diseases Hospital, with all the necessary appliances for the disinfection of clothing, &c. This has been a long felt want, and I am sure when such a building does really exist, it will be a great boon to all classes of the community, more especially to those whose duties are connected with the Government or other large establishments, as no reason would then exist why any man should be debarred from continuing his employment, and compelled to forfeit his weekly wages, as he is now, to the impoverishment of his family as regards the daily necessities of life, and the deprivation to those in sickness of that extra nourishment which is requisite to combat the disease.

Directly an infectious case arises, the Medical Attendant's first instruction is to isolate the patient. But in the majority of cases, this is almost an impossibility, for how can the parent, who is attending the patient, avoid mixing with the rest of the family in the pursuance of the daily work of the household.

Possibly in a few brief moments, the infection is carried by the parent to the children, and by the children to their companions outside, and so the disease is spread.

Many instances have been brought to my notice where working men would have only been too willing to avail themselves of the advantages of an isolation hospital, had such really existed, and though a few might be somewhat prejudiced, still I see no reason why in time the whole community should not learn to appreciate such an institution in their midst.

It is, moreover, my firm opinion that it is utterly impossible to carry out a thorough disinfection of clothing at one's own home, and considering that the infection is chiefly carried by the clothing, it only shows how essential a disinfector is.

I trust, Gentlemen, that these important matters will receive your early consideration, and that with increased facilities for dealing with outbreaks, we may be able to raise this district to the level of the healthiest districts in the Kingdom.

## DIPHTHERIA.

There has been little variation under this heading, the notifications numbering 34 as against 37 in 1893, and 34 in 1892, whilst the deaths have been 12 as against 9 in 1893, and 7 in 1892.

Most of these cases occurred during the months of August, September and October. I find that throughout the country the disease was prevalent, especially in the large towns.

The population of this district is a floating one, consisting, as it does, of very many of both services, who are frequently changing from one place to another, so that it is really often very difficult to ascertain by what means infection is brought into our midst.

When a case is reported, one naturally looks for some faulty drain, or contaminated water or milk.

Should the drainage be defective, a tendency naturally exists to sore throat, rendering the person more liable to absorb any virulent poison which may be near.

In the cases which occurred at Hardway and Elson, it is very difficult to attribute with absolute certainty the source from which the outbreak arose.

At the outset, stringent inquiries were made both by myself and the Sanitary Inspector, and analyses were made of the water of various wells in the neighbourhood.

The result of these inquiries leads me to infer that the water supply was at the root of the whole mischief. The following is a copy of a letter forwarded by me to the Chairman of the Gosport and Alverstoke Local Board, and also to the Secretary of the Local Government Board, in reply to a complaint that had been made to the Local Government Board by a resident of the district.

(COPY)

Gosport and Alverstoke Local Board,  
Sanitary Offices,

November 22nd, 1894.

Sir,

At your request, I have the honour to forward a list of the Diphtheria cases which have occurred in the neighbourhood of Elson and Hardway and the results, and beg to state, that immediately upon receiving the notifications, the Sanitary Inspector and myself visited each case (excepting those connected with the Government establishments, where they have their own Sanitary and Medical Officers) and made a minute investigation as to the origin of the disease.

As seen in the accompanying reports, the source of water supply was from wells, except at Priddy's Hard, where it was obtained from the Gosport Water Works, which is good and pure.

Upon analysis of the well water, it was found to be highly contaminated with sewage matter, utterly unfit, and dangerous for drinking and domestic purposes.



The milk supply in all these cases with one exception was from one dairy in the neighbourhood, the water used for the cows being taken from a well, which was highly charged with sulphuretted hydrogen, so much so, that in uncorking a sample, the stench therefrom was unbearable, and it is to this I attribute the origin of the disease, for although no bacteriological analysis was made, all the surroundings assist me in arriving at this conclusion.

With regard to the case of the Rev. J. Dawkins, which ended fatally within 24 hours of the notification, the deceased had baptised the child of a parishioner, who was suffering not only from diphtheria, but was as I afterwards learned in an advanced stage of tuberculosis. The reverend gentleman being in a delicate state of health at the time, undoubtedly contracted the disease in this way, and I may mention that it may have been accelerated owing to the unsanitary condition of the Vicarage premises, whilst the well water which was used for drinking and domestic purposes was far from pure. The milk supply came from a dairy where the cows were supplied from well water, which upon analysis was found to be charged with matter quite unfit for drinking or cleaning purposes. The consumption of this, and the unsanitary state of the house, in my opinion kept the deceased in a low state of health, so that when exposed to infection, he was more liable to contract the same.

Since condemning the water from the wells, and insisting upon a pure supply being obtained from another source, the disease seems to have abated. I cannot see in any way, that pigs which were kept upon the allotment grounds contributed to the spreading of the disease. I made a minute inspection with the Sanitary Inspector as to the accumulation of manure, and found nothing during our visit that was obnoxious. Nevertheless, the removal of the pigs was carried out according to the notice served upon the owner, though they were quite 350 feet from the premises wherein the aforesaid child dwelt.

With reference to the pigs' manure mentioned in Mr. Masse's letter of the 15th inst., the Inspector visited and inspected the same, and found it deposited the prescribed distance from any dwelling house, and no nuisance existing.

The four cases of Diphtheria alluded to in the one house facing this ground occurred previous to any manure being placed there.

In all the three cases outside the Government departments, the water was obtained from wells, which by analysis is shown to be contaminated with sewage, and in some cases highly so.

In Knight's case a supply of town water is provided, but the boy attended Elson National School, where the water supply was derived from a foul well, proved to be highly charged, as the Analyst's report shows.

To prevent the occurrence and spreading of the disease, all well water which has been found to be unfit by analysis, has been condemned, and circulars have been issued throughout the whole district advising the inhabitants to provide a proper and good supply of pure fresh water for drinking purposes.

All sanitary defects have been taken in hand and remedied, and the disinfection of the various premises where the disease existed, have been carried out to my entire satisfaction.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

EDWIN JOHN HUNTER, L.R.C.P., Eng.,

Medical Officer of Health

For the District of Gosport & Alverstoke.

Colonel Mumby, J.P.,

Chairman of the Gosport and Alverstoke Local Board.

### SCARLATINA.

Under this heading there has been a marked decrease in the notifications, there being only 19 cases notified as against 69 in 1893, and 125 in 1892.

Only two deaths occurred during the year, both of them being at the Naval and Military Hospitals.

### MEASLES.

In 1893 this disease assumed an epidemic form, the death rate reaching 2 per 1000, and the number of deaths 48.

During 1894 not a single death occurred under this heading.

### ENTERIC FEVER.

Here again a favourable report has to be made, there being 44 cases notified as against 93 the year previous, and the deaths numbering 8 throughout the district (five of which were at the Naval Hospital) as against 18 in 1893. The mortality rate was .3 per 1000.

### ERYSIPELAS AND WHOOPING COUGH.

Only 1 death was recorded from Erysipelas and 2 from Whooping Cough, the previous year registering 10 and 5.

The cases notified under the former heading also decreased fifty per cent.



### BRONCHITIS, PNEUMONIA AND PLEURISY.

The favourable weather of 1894 largely contributed to the great decrease in the number of deaths which are registered under the above headings. The figures for 1891, 1892, 1893 and 1894 are respectively: 72, 131, 107 and 74, the mortality rates being during the same periods 2·83, 5·13, 4·19 and 2·91 per 1000.

### DIARRHŒA AND DYSENTERY.

Only 3 deaths are recorded under this heading, as against 20 and 19 in 1893 and 1892 respectively. The weather is in a great measure the cause of this decline.

### PHTHISIS.

From Phthisis or Consumption there is a further decrease, especially in the district proper. The average for 1891, 1892, 1893 and 1894, when there were 60, 61, 53 and 49 deaths were 2·36, 2·39, 2·08 and 1·92 per 1000 respectively.

### HEART DISEASE.

The variation under this heading is almost imperceptible, and calls for no comment.

### INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Pursuant to the Regulations of the Local Government Board, the District has been regularly inspected, the Courts and Alleys included, and I am pleased to state that the general condition of the whole District is satisfactory.

The Common Lodging Houses, the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops, and the Slaughter-houses have been periodically visited, and I am pleased to report favourably of their condition.

### ROUTINE WORK.

During the year 24 houses have been thoroughly fumigated and disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

The Courts and Alleys have been whitewashed as before, and their generally satisfactory condition maintained.

In 94 cases the drainage of premises has been tested by the Inspector. 173 notices have been served to abate nuisances, and 193 nuisances have been abated.

There have been no Sanitary prosecutions during the year, which I am assured will be a source of satisfaction to the Council.

I have to record my appreciation of the able services rendered throughout the year by Mr. Beel, the Sanitary Inspector.

Herewith I append tabular statements of visits made by the Inspector during the year, the notices served for the abatement of nuisances, together with the number of nuisances abated.

Also a Statement of deaths during the year 1894, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities, together with a Table of Population, Births and new cases of Sickness.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your very obedient Servant,

EDWIN JOHN HUNTER, L.R.C.P., Eng.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Gosport & Alverstoke District.

To the Chairman and Members

of the Gosport & Alverstoke Urban District Council.

## NOTICES SERVED TO ABATE NUISANCES, &amp; NUISANCES ABATED.

			Notices served.
To cleanse, repair, trap and ventilate Drains	...	...	39
„ „ Drains and Cesspools	...	...	18
„ „ and repair Cesspits	...	...	24
„ repair Dwelling Houses	...	...	20
„ cleanse „ „	...	...	3
„ open up Drains (Sec. 41, Public Health Act, 1875)	...	...	12
„ remove Cesspits from Work-rooms, &c.	...	...	3
„ provide Drainage for Dwelling Houses	...	...	7
„ repair Yard Pavement	...	...	4
„ „ Cowshed Pavement	...	...	3
„ close Shed as unfit for Stable	...	...	1
„ remove Blood and Offal	...	...	2
„ cleanse Rain Water Tank	...	...	1
„ dispense with Cesspits and adopt Ash Closet System	...	...	14
„ remove Manure and Vegetable Refuse	...	...	4
„ cleanse Piggeries	...	...	3
„ repair Water Closet Soil Pipe	...	...	1
„ reduce overcrowding in Work-room	...	...	1
„ pave and drain Piggeries	...	...	3
„ remove Defective Drains from underneath foundation of Dwelling House	..	...	1
„ remove Filthy Fowl Pen	...	...	1
„ renew Ash Closet receptacles	...	...	3
„ provide Flushing Tank apparatus	..	...	2
„ „ proper Water Supply for Cowsheds	...	...	2
„ remove Trade Refuse	...	...	1
		Total	173



	Nuisances abated.			
Drains cleansed, repaired, trapped and ventilated	...	...	...	38
Cesspools cleansed	...	...	...	18
Drainage opened up	...	...	...	13
New Water Closets provided	...	...	...	1
New Cesspools provided	...	...	...	3
Slaughter House Drain cleansed, &c.	...	...	...	1
Cesspits removed from dwellings	...	...	...	4
New Drainage provided for Dwellings	...	...	...	29
Cesspits cleansed and repaired	..	...	...	17
Dwelling Houses cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	11
Yard Pavement repaired	...	...	...	4
Rain Water Tank repaired	...	...	...	1
Cesspits filled and Ash Closets provided	...	...	...	17
Manure and Refuse removed	...	...	...	5
Piggeries cleansed	...	...	...	7
Cowshed Pavement repaired	...	...	...	2
Overcrowding in Work-room reduced	...	...	...	1
Cowsheds cleansed and whitewashed	...	...	...	2
New Ash Closet receptacles provided	...	...	...	6
Wells closed (voluntary)	...	..	...	9
Flushing Tanks provided	...	...	...	2
Water provided for Cow-sheds	...	...	...	2
Total				<hr/> 193 <hr/>

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS DURING THE YEAR 1894.

Purposes of Visits.		Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Investigation of Infectious Diseases by Sanitary Inspector	...	6	6	6	8	6	10	3	9	5	10	14	5	88
To Visits <i>re</i> Sanitary matters	...	38	35	19	30	44	29	29	26	42	28	33		353
" " Inspection of Nuisances and attending complaints	...	93	67	58	54	65	69	47	60	45	42	53	51	704
" " Inspection of Cowsheds and Dairies	...	4	5	12	30	4	10	4	17	6	8	3		103
" " Slaughter Houses	...	9	18	16	21	15	17	10	19	11	19	14	22	191
" " Marine Stores	...			1		1			2	2	2			8
" " Workshops	...			23	6				4			1		34
" " Bakehouses	...			7	6	1		1	1	1	4	7	11	39
" " Common Lodging Houses		1	5		2	4		4	3	3	6	2		30
Fumigating Houses	...			3	3	5		4			6	1	2	24
Drainage Tested	...	8	11	12	18	16	5	2			6	10	6	94
Taking Samples of Water	...									6				6
Totals	...	159	147	157	178	161	140	104	141	121	131	138	97	1674





Table of DEATHS during the year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District, of Gosport and Alverstoke, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Names of Localities.	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages.							Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of children under 5 years of age.															
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Totals.	
Gosport and Alverstoke	...	297	79	30	17	17	75	Under 5	5	3				2	2			24	1	1	71	109	
House of Industry	...	30			1	13	16	Under 5			3	1				1	21	34	22		2	98	188
Naval & Military Establishments		90	4		1	29	11	Under 5										6	1	3		20	30
Totals	...	417	83	30	18	47	102	Under 5	2	1	5	1			2	1		22	15	9	4	26	86
								5 upwds.	5	3				2	2				24	1	1	75	113
								5 upwds.	7		8	2			1	1	49	50	34	6	144	304	

Table of POPULATION and BIRTHS.

Localities.		Population at all ages.		Registered Births.	
Gosport	...	Census 1891	Estimated to middle of 1894	Males	393
House of Industry	...	25,437	26,200	Females	382
Naval & Military Hospitals	...				
Totals	...				775







